

Good luck
Taylathon
teams!

THE ECHO

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWS

THIS ISSUE

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importance of Christian
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finish seasons

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Friday May 11, 2001

Upland, Indiana

Students involved in crash

BY KAREN PENNER
NEWS EDITOR

Twelve Taylor students and a Taylor staff member were involved in a single-car accident on May 8.

Twelve admissions office CREW members, along with Amy Barnett, director of student services, were traveling back to campus after spending the evening at the home of Ken Taylor, associate director of admissions, to sign their contracts of the upcoming school year.

According to the Blackford Police report and Griffin Ott, an intern at the admissions office who currently oversees CREW, the group was traveling west on State Road 26 when the front right wheel of the van wandered off the road onto the shoulder. Barnett, who was driving, attempted twice to correct the vehicle over the lip of the road when the back end of the van began to fishtail.

The vehicle then skidded across the road and flipped multiple times, break a gas main, crashing into a tree and landing on the passenger side.

Because the van landed near the broken gas main, the group

quickly crawled out through the broken windshield and walked away from the wreck.

"I remember everything ... it was very traumatic," said freshman Leslie Dye, a member of the group. "I am just so thankful that no one was hurt any worse."

The Blackford County Sheriff's Department was called to the scene by a passerby just minutes after the accident occurred.

The group members were taken to Hartford City Hospital and were treated and released later that evening.

One student, freshman Sarah Helderman, suffered rib and collarbone fractures. Others were treated for minor cuts and bruises.

For precautionary reasons, five members of the group stayed in the Health Center that night. The next day, freshman Emily Hammond was taken to the Ball Memorial Hospital for further treatment. She was released later that day.

Ott went to visit the group as soon as he heard about the accident.

"Everyone was in a surreal mood, kind of like [the accident] had never happened," said Ott. "Everyone was very thankful that

Sharing a day with the grandparents



Photo by Bryan Smith

AURTHOR AND BETTY MCDERMID SHARE their grandson Scott McDermid's tradition of enjoying conversation over coffee from the Jumping Bean before chapel. Grandparent's Day is an annual even when Taylor students can take time to share their college experiences and spend time with their grandparents.

Economic slowdown not cause for senior worry

BY KAREN PENNER
NEWS EDITOR

From finding that godly man or woman to securing that solid GPA, Taylor seniors have enough to worry about. Rumors of a decrease in job placement for 2001 graduates has added yet another problem to worry over as seniors approach the end of their Taylor experience.

However, a trip to the Career Development office below the Chapel to see the shelf packed tight with black binders full of job openings should alleviate the job worry. Students have equated the economic slowdown with a decrease in job placements.

"I think nationally there is probably some information in the rumor mill because of a so-called recession," said Larry Mealy, director of career development and associate dean of students.

Mealy warned against believing the rumors, reporting

that "right now the information I'm reading from articles connected to national career services and such are saying that the graduates this year should not be impacted at all."

Overall, Mealy doesn't expect a decline in job placement. The results for the 2000 graduate job placement are not yet in, but Mealy reported that for 1999, 40% of Taylor seniors found jobs before graduation. The overall job placement statistic goes up when you account that the teacher's employment season is from August 1 to mid September. Shortly after graduation, Taylor placed 92% of graduates.

The statistics being calculated for the 2000 graduates are showing a similar percentage and Mealy expects the same for this year.

"The only industry that I know that is affecting our graduates right now may be some of the financial institutions,"

Mealy said.

The affect would be seen in the way financial institutions may wait the summer out before hiring. They because they want to wait and see what the stock market does.

"They may be put on hold for a short time but I don't think their employment is in jeopardy," Mealy said.

Mealy went on to point out that Taylor University prepares business majors above and beyond, making graduates attractive to financial institutions.

Taylor's reputation for preparing graduates to compete for employment does not stop with business majors.

"Typically, even in a poor economy, Taylor grads have not been limited in the job market," Mealy said.

On the other side of Taylor's liberal arts program, the education majors face a favorable market this year.

Indiana job fairs have brought in several out-of-state schools looking for teachers. The adoption of state educational standards in states ranging from Indiana to Colorado has initiated another hiring spree for teachers.

For the seniors fretting over getting jobs, Keva Taylor, employee of the Career Development Center, advises students to "get out and do something about it." She pointed to the shelf full of job openings and said, "We get piles and piles and piles of job openings." It's just a matter of spending time in the Center looking for a job.

"[A job's] not going to fall on your lap," Taylor said. "You're going to have to look, but they're there."

Despite the economy and the rumors, seniors don't have to waste their worrying on job placement. They can go back to worrying about how they're going to pay for that ring or how to ace that last final.

Retraction

A letter to the editor regarding faculty chapel attendance by Ryan Crawford was published in the May 4 issue of the Echo. Ryan Crawford claimed to be a senior student, but it has since been discovered that no one by that name is enrolled at Taylor. Therefore, the Echo would like to retract this letter.

While we welcome student opinion, we do not support letters written under pseudonyms unless the editor has been notified of the writer's identity prior to publication. The Echo takes full responsibility for the publication of this letter and the lack of proper discernment in this situation.

However, please be aware that it is our policy to speak with the author of all letters to the editor. We encourage students, staff and faculty to honestly represent themselves when they submit their thoughts for publication. The purpose of the Echo is to foster discussion on issues that are pertinent to our campus.

Opinion

"I can't play being mad. I go out there and have fun. It's a game, and that's how I am going to treat it."
-Ken Griffey, Jr.

Athlete disheartened by alumnus' letter

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BY MATT BLANDIN

I am writing this letter in response to the letter in the April 27th Echo, entitled "Alumnus disappointed in behavior." I believe that the letter wrongly cast Taylor athletics in a negative light, while demonstrating a growing ignorance in Christianity today towards the Christian athlete's demonstration of intensity and emotion in the competitive athletic experience.

My Taylor athletic career has been a learning experience in which I have discovered the true essence of being a Christian athlete. Along the way, I have also encountered people in Taylor's community that truly believe that being a Christian athlete is an oxymoron. The

athletic experience is more than just a leisure activity. Instead, I see it as one of the greatest classrooms God ever gave us. During practices, both in-season and off-season, I have learned many lessons in discipline, perseverance, trust and teamwork to name a few. An athlete is tested in every contest, not by the typical academic classroom test, but in front

of hundreds of screaming spectators with no room for error, everything on the line, and an opponent that wants to physically stop them from success.

I agree with the author that there is a fine "line to be drawn between playing with intensity and with malice." After conversing with the baseball team on the author's described situation, I believe that line was not crossed. Their complaint with the umpire was with the sudden inconsistency in his calls. Their comments were not demeaning, but more like questions. Then the umpire decided to take the questions personally, which

"The athletic experience is ... one of the greatest classrooms God ever gave us."

all good referees and umpires are taught not to do. The umpire then decided to cross the line by demeaning the baseball team by using profanity towards them. After the game, some of the parents confronted the umpire in the parking lot about his profane comments and that must be where the author must have overheard the negative comments about Taylor. As Christians, I believe we have the right to confront others about their unprofessional conduct. It is a shame that

the umpire had such negative feelings, but I think his comments were due more to his guilty conscience.

I believe that a Christian athlete showing emotion and intensity in athletic competition is essential to their witness. Christians that have never been involved in athletics often view this intensity, as a negative and unnecessary. In the current world of athletics, there is a negative stigma about Christian athletes, amongst non-Christians. Many non-Christians believe that Christian athletes are soft and weak when it comes to intensity in competition. They believe that Christians are just crazy Bible-thumpers, instead of being focused on becoming a better athlete and wanting to succeed. I believe that this is what is truly reflecting on Christianity in a negative light and is preventing non-Christian athletes from turning to Christ.

I believe that Christian athletes and coaches do have the right to confront referees and officials about their behavior and performance. In Matthew 18: 15-18, God gives us the Biblical model for confronting sin, amongst Christians. I believe that this same model can be applied to confronting actions by non-Christians during athletic contests, such as umpires. I am not naïve to think that human error

does not happen, but when it becomes a habit throughout a contest that is when it is not human error and a Christian must confront the official. In today's athletic world, I believe that Christian athletes and coaches gain respect for Christianity, by taking a stand and trying to protect the integrity of the game.

Through my experience with the football team, I can honestly say that the only way I can reach

my opponents for Christ is through demonstrating passion, emotion, and intensity. In football, this does not happen by passiveness and letting people run you over. Instead, it only happens through the physical demonstration of passion, emotion, and intensity. God calls us to excellence, complete effort and never quitting in anything we do, including athletics. There have been instances where I have said or done things that I have regretted, of which I have asked God for forgiveness. I do feel that these faults are heavily outweighed by the aforementioned Christian principles displayed through my

efforts and actions. This is what non-Christians notice and express interest in, after contests.

I find it disheartening that the author felt compelled to write his letter without finding out the true facts and circumstances encompassing the situation. If he was so bothered by this situation, along with the others he mentioned that had happened while he was at Taylor, why did he not confront the athletes, coaches, or fans? In following the Biblical model of

"Intensity and emotion should be part of Christian athletics here at Taylor."

accountability, he would have found that either his perception of the situation was wrong or at least helped the confronted person grow in their Christian walk. Instead, he made the choice to write a letter that put an un-Christian perception on Taylor athletics. Intensity and emotion should be a part of Christian athletics here at Taylor as I have described and tried to summarize. Taylor's athletes are not perfect Christians in our actions, but we strive for perfection. During this process mistakes might be made, but I believe that the positives far outweigh the negatives, contrary to what the author of the previous letter wrote.

Professor offers explanation for lack of chapel attendance

Heavy workloads, family responsibilities and extracurricular time with students keep faculty members running on empty

I would like to thank Ryan Crawford, or rather the real person behind that alias, for his/her comments in last week's Echo regarding faculty chapel attendance. In offering this response, I have decided to follow his/her lead and write anonymously as well.

As I see it, the most significant factor explaining poor faculty chapel attendance is workload. Routinely, Taylor is reviewed by outside accreditation agencies and assessed for the various aspects of our programming, teaching, etc. Also routinely, Taylor fails national standards for teaching load. By most standards, the absolute maximum teaching load that is allowed is 24 credit hours per year. Taylor's average: 27. Moreover, the faculty workload is com-

pounded in other respects beyond classroom duties, including committee work, advising, mentoring of students, speaking at Bible studies, helping out at athletic events, and involvement in other significant campus functions. Suffice it to say that many of us work 50-60 hour weeks, while also maintaining home lives, raising kids, doing house maintenance, and engaging in various activities in our communities. I could also address the matter of salaries, but I won't go there. (I should note, by the way, that Taylor's administrators fully recognize this problem and are in the process of addressing it, but it will take some time for the matter to be rectified.)

So what has all this to do with chapel attendance? Well, many of my colleagues believe that an

expectation to attend chapel three days per week on top of the already excessive (and, remember, disallowed) teaching load is unreasonable. And, frankly, I think this argument has some force. When I first arrived at Taylor many years ago, I too was perplexed by the poor faculty chapel attendance. I am much more sympathetic now, especially given my own commitment to maintain quality family time. As one of my colleagues recently noted to me, cutting chapel can mean arriving home at 5:00 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m. and spending 3 rather than 2 hours with the kids before bedtime, which is a significant difference. I suspect that it is because Taylor students typically are neither spouses nor parents that this dimension of the issue does not come immediately

to some of their minds.

Of course, the fact that some faculty find the low-church worship style in chapel services disagreeable provides further incentive not to attend. But I believe that is not the primary cause of low faculty attendance. The main issue is time. This might seem odd, considering that Taylor faculty are very involved in extracurricular student activities. One might suggest that faculty just cut back on their involvement with students "after hours" so they can attend chapel more regularly. But I think most students would consider that an undesirable exchange, considering the greater depth of impact faculty have when, say, speaking to students on their wings, having students over for dinner, or just

meeting with a student over a Coke in the union. Remember, there are only so many hours in the week, and time committed to chapel attendance would necessarily mean less time spent doing something else worthwhile.

Let me close by noting that I love teaching at Taylor and I appreciate everyone here from the students to the faculty, staff and administrators. And I think my fellow faculty are the best colleagues (both professionally and personally) that a person in my profession could have. So it does grieve me to see our integrity called into question, particularly when we so regularly go the extra mile for the very students who, at times, do not fully appreciate (or aren't even aware of) the sacrifices that many of us make.

-Dr. Mij Legeips

"In America, people resent nudity. In Europe, there's a competition to see who can be the most naked." -Victoria Silvstedt

Why play when you have sports movies?

BY TAB BAMFORD

STAFF WRITER

Sports movies are the best kinds of movies. Period. Sorry to those who enjoy the Meg Ryan "Sponsored by Kleenex" films and those who like the "So Artsy I Don't Know Where It's Going" films. I like sports. If you don't like, or haven't seen, any sports movies, these are the ones you should see, because I said so.

For boxing, see "Rocky," "Rocky II," and "Rocky IV." There are five "Rocky" movies, but here's the thing. The third one has both Mr. T and Hulk Hogan. It is the movie Sly made because he had spent all his money from the first two too fast. And the fifth one is just odd. Tommy Morrison, a real boxer and real convict, is in it. Being that he's in jail, I'd say his best acting was done on the stand. The movie is that bad.

In hockey, there are a few stel-

lar flicks. "Slap Shot" and "Mighty Ducks" are great. I know "Mighty Ducks" is cheesy, but hey, Dawson's Creek star Joshua Jackson is in it. "Slap Shot" is a great classic comedy from the 1970s starring Paul Newman. However, because of questionable language and a few less-than-fully-clothed scenes, I cannot fully recommend it to Taylor's student body.

Soccer movies... "Lady Bugs"? I'm at a bit of a loss here. I know that Rodney Dangerfield and his cross-dressing son don't exactly fit into a Taylor worldview, but it's soccer, isn't it?

Everything that any golfer should ever be is embodied in one and only one movie: "Caddyshack." I believe it is far and away the best acting job done by Bill Murray and Chevy Chase to date.

The list of football movies goes forever. "Any Given Sunday" is an excellent look at the inner

workings of a pro football team. However, there are a few scenes that are not TU-appropriate. Therefore I cannot give it a full recommendation.

"Varsity Blues" looks at high school football in Texas, where the game is

nearly a religion. We'll blame the lack of recommendation here on Dairy Queen. Another football film I love is the early 90s "The Program," which is a college football movie viewed

by millions of players every year. Again, no recommendation here. The one football movie I can recommend to the general Taylor public is "Remember the Titans." Personally I was upset that

Denzel Washington didn't get an Oscar nod. He was a stud in this flick.

Basketball has a few winners. "Hoosiers" is one of the best. "He Got Game" is another good one, but sex and language again.

"Blue Chips" stars Shaquille O'Neal, so stay away at all costs."

"Blue Chips" stars Shaquille O'Neal, so stay away at all costs.

However, the best basketball movie I have ever seen is "Hoop Dreams," a documentary about two star high school

players and their journey through the recruiting process their senior year of high school. Though a bit lengthy, the quality of the movie makes the time investment worthwhile.

Baseball has as many classics as football. "The Natural" is incredible and "Bull Durham" is great, but my favorite is "Field of Dreams" from pre-"Waterworld" Kevin Costner. Big Kev tried to recapture the magic of "Field of Dreams" with another baseball movie a couple years ago in "For the Love of the Game." This movie reflects where Costner's career has gone and is part of what I like to call the "Oh How Sweet (I'm Gonna Throw Up)" genre of movies.

On the lighter side of baseball classics are "Bad News Bears" and "Major League." Again, as with the "Rocky" movies, there are sequels "Major League II" and "Major League III: Back to the Minors." Avoid these.

If I had to personally pick two sports movies to watch in an evening, which I have done, I would pull out "Slap Shot" and "Caddyshack."

Good food keeps Marion eatery flying

BY NAOMI JOY POPPE

STAFF WRITER

Some people have said that when pigs fly there will be a great restaurant in Marion. Well, the pig has just flown. I saw the flying pig and it led me to a great place. Located at 213 East Fourth Street in downtown Marion, *The Flying Pig* is the place for wings, ribs and wraps. It's a little touch of class right here in Grant County.

As I stepped inside, the funky ambiance greeted me with bright red and yellow colors. Pictures of flying pigs decorated the walls. The waitress greeted me with a smile and seated me at a booth. My skeptical eye passed over my surroundings. It was clean, lively yet relaxing. The prices were reasonable, ranging from \$4-13. I was still holding back. In my mind, good restaurants only exist in the city.

My opinion changed when my order arrived. I bit into a rib so tender that the meat melted in my mouth. Their famous wings came with over 10 different sauce choices. My wrap arrived and was very aesthetically pleasing. It was inventive, but not so

strange that I did not enjoy it. Best of all, there were REAL vegetables in my wrap. None of that iceberg lettuce found a place in this establishment.

Very impressed with my visit thus far, I asked the waitress about their specials. She then disclosed deals and delights that every college ear appreciates. Number one was Monday night \$1 spaghetti - \$2 with meatballs! It can't get any better than that. Tuesday night follows with all you can eat buffalo wings for \$7.95. To top the week off, every Friday night a live band is featured starting at 9 p.m. If this does not tempt you to try *The Flying Pig*, then at least you can come simply to color on your paper tablecloth with crayons.

To end my pleasant evening, I went for the creme brulee desert. The sweet custard topped with homemade caramel, was a treat.

So, for all of you looking for big city flavor in a small town, *The Flying Pig* is your place. It is open Monday through Friday 11a.m.-3p.m. and again from 5-11p.m., as well as Saturday and Sunday from 11a.m.-11p.m. Stop in, or call for a reservation at 668-FLYN.

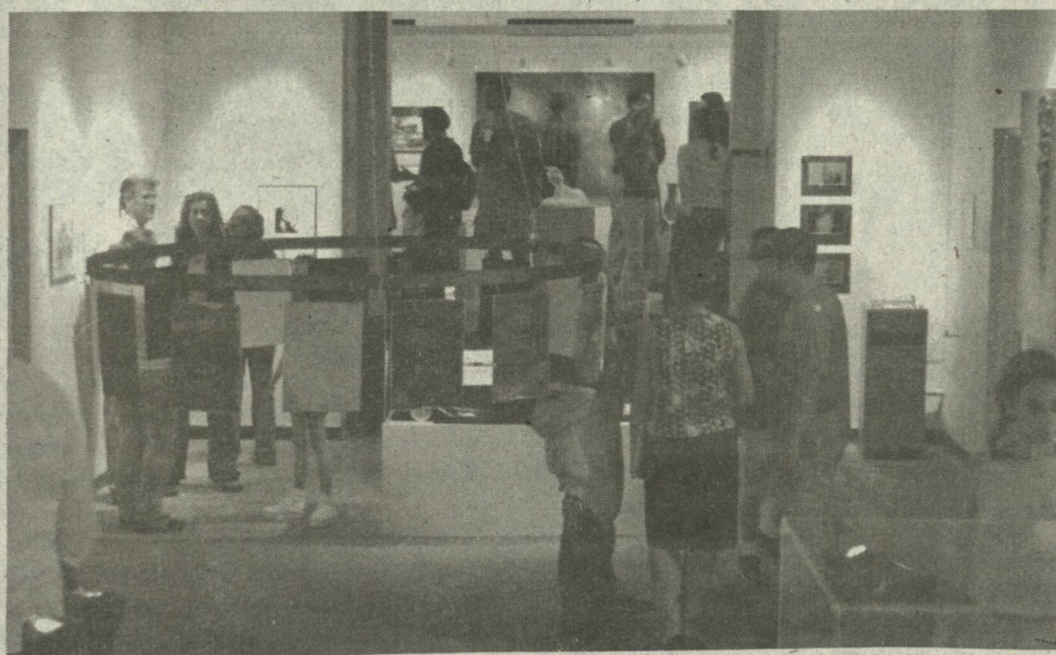


Photo by Bryan Smith

STUDENTS MILL AROUND and view the art at the annual Mitchell student art exhibit last Monday. The art show gave students from all different majors the chance to display their creative abilities. It also produced an excellent opportunity for them to have their artwork purchased. Senior Ryan James walked away with the prestigious "Best of Show" award for his graphic design piece "Shoreless Shore of Silence." Senior Noel Randel sold the most works and received the most awards, including Division of Fine Arts Prize for her painting "River Bed" and first prize for her drawing "Red Shoes." Jazz ensemble *Chameleon 6* also played, adding to the art gallery atmosphere.

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Sports

Seniors' friendship a home run

Senior two-sport athletes end their careers confident that their friendship is even stronger than their game

By TAB BAMFORD
STAFF WRITER

Seasons fade. Careers end. Friendships don't.

One was a centerfielder and safety; the other was a receiver and right fielder/pitcher. Two sports. Four years. Uncountable memories. This isn't a Mastercard commercial. It's the final chapter of the book that seniors Jeremy Roberts and Scott Blackford have written for Taylor athletics. Whether it was on the gridiron or the diamond, the presence of both men has been felt the past four years.

Four years ago, two freshman came to Taylor with high aspirations of playing intercollegiate sports. Blackford rolled out of Tippecanoe, Ind., while Roberts hailed from Ft. Wayne, Ind. Both came in as rare cases - varsity two-sport athletes.

While some sports have compatible seasons, such as cross-country and track and field, football and baseball each have long, grueling seasons. Yet these two youngsters thought they could make it both ways in the big

time.

During their tenures on the Taylor fields, these two stars have made their mark on both squads. Blackford started mid-way through his freshman year on the football team and never looked back, going on to earn consecutive All-MSFA Honors his junior and senior seasons. Roberts bided his time at wide out behind seasoned veterans his freshman and sophomore seasons and then exploded to All-MSFA status his junior year as he led the Trojans in receiving with 736 yards and two touchdowns. Roberts would again garner honors from the conference his senior year, as he and Blackford led the Trojans on and off the field.

Both excelled on the baseball diamond as well. Roberts led the team in hitting this year and was awarded with his second consecutive All-MCC First Team award. Blackford, a stalwart in the field, earned All-MCC recognition in 2000.

The two saw the full spectrum of athletic success as well. Their

freshman year, the football team finished with a decent record of 7-3, but not at the top of the conference. However, in 2000, Blackford and Roberts played vital roles in taking the Trojans to the top of the conference and eventually to the second round of the NAIA National Playoffs, a place no Taylor football team had been before. Then in 2001, key injuries and graduations brought the football squad back to earth, and the team's record fell to 2-9.

"You really learn about yourself during the tough times, when the team is losing," Roberts said. "When you're down, your real personality shows itself."

In baseball, the team won half its games and was in the bottom half of the conference when the duo arrived. Like the football team, baseball won the conference title in 1999 with both men being main ingredients in the success. This year the team played very well, beating NCAA Division One Bethune-Cookman in Florida and advancing to the semi-final round of the MCC tournament before being knocked

"We have a good time together, even when we're not together."

-Yogi Berra

out by Bethel.

It wasn't the successes and failures on the field that will be remembered, though. Roberts said, "You get to see all different types of leaders [in both sports] - the loud ones and soft spoken ones. You learn from the different styles and begin to see what kind of leader you might be."

Roberts led through example and emotion this year, as his teammates voted him a captain of the football team. Blackford led with strong words and stronger actions. Both made new friends and forged relationships that will last a lifetime, including the one the two share with each other.

"We're like brothers," Blackford said. "[Roberts] is one my best friends. It was a pleasure and honor playing with a person and player of his caliber."

Whether it was Blackford covering Roberts' routes in football practice or Roberts playing next to Blackford in the outfield, one thing will stay the same forever - they have each others' backs.

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Softball morale strong to the end

By DEBBIE DOUGLASS
STAFF WRITER

Their 7-28 record is nothing to brag about, but Taylor's softball team experienced more this season than a mere win-loss tally can explain.

Coach Joe Lund knew his team was young. With 75 percent freshmen and only one senior, the team's roster read more like a gen. ed. roll call. When the team graduated most of their starting infield last year, Lund acknowledged that the coming season would be a time of rebuilding.

This year, two freshman pitchers, Sarah Clark and Jackie Langdon, led the defense. Lund relied on the offense to step up to the challenge when the young pitchers were inevitably stretched. Unfortunately, that strategy didn't pan out quite as planned.

Lone senior and team captain Ashley Lund said it was a "tiring season," but said that the poor record is misrepresentative of the

team's overall performance. "The girls improved monumentally throughout the year," she said. "There were blowouts, but by the end we were losing by one run in the seventh inning."

Junior Kate Oates felt that the team competed well with everyone in conference. "There is a lot of talent on the team, regardless of record. With more experience and mental toughness, the games will be that much closer next year," Oates said.

Despite the difficult season, Coach Lund made it clear that this was an enjoyable team to work with. "The girls did not ever pick at each other or tear each other down," he said. "They had a 'never say die' work ethic and attitude."

Oates, too, was pleased with the group dynamic and the good attitudes the ladies displayed. "Of my three years playing for Taylor, I had the most fun this year," she said. She has fond memories of times spent with the

team, especially during their tournament in Florida over spring break. She attributed much of the positive experience to Coach Lund, who led daily Bible studies with the team during the tournament. "The lessons he taught and his openness with the team had a big impact," Oates said.

Coach Lund is looking forward to next year. Though the team will still be young, they will have a year of experience together. "The girls will know better what I expect of them at a certain count. They'll have more of the mental maturity that comes with experience." He is currently in the process of recruiting for next season.

It was not an easy year, but the Taylor softball team is far from weighing the season as a loss. Ashley Lund said, "It was trying season, but the hardship contributed to a lot of growth on the team, both skillfully and spiritually."